

WINCANTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**

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For the  
Year Ending 31st December, 1948



Wincanton,  
Somerset,  
June, 1949

# To the Rural District Council of Wincanton

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

## 1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	64,540
Population (1948)	.. .. .	16,560
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	..	4,361
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)		4,385
Rateable Value (1st April, 1948)	.. ..	£74,662
Net Product of Penny Rate	.. .. .	£332/14/0

## 2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

### BIRTHS.

		Males	Females	
Live Births	Total	146	129	Birth Rate 17.9 per 1000
	Legitimate	140	119	
	Illegitimate	6	10	
Still Births	Total	3	4	Birth Rate 0.42 per 1000
	Legitimate	2	4	
	Illegitimate	1	—	

### DEATHS.

Deaths from all causes : Total 176. Males, 102. Females 74.  
Death Rate 10.8 per 1000

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

- (a) from sepsis .. .. . nil.  
(b) from other causes .. .. . nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

		Males	Females
Total	.. .. .	5	3
Legitimate	.. .. .	4	1
Illegitimate	.. .. .	1	2

Deaths of Infants under one week	..	..	..	..	4
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)	..			..	2
„ „ from one to six months	..	..	..	..	2
„ „ from six to twelve months	..	..	..	..	0
				Total	8

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	nil
„ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	..	..	..	..	1

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 176, compared with 228 in 1947.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Old Age	..	..	..	17	Cancer	..	..	..	31
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	63	Cerebral	Haemorrhage						23

In all “ Causes of Death ”—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 30

„ „ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 29

„ „ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 13

„ „ over the age of 90 were 4

A total of 76 or 43.18 per cent. of the total Deaths.

### 3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	20	6	nil
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	nil	8
Whooping Cough	66	1	nil
Measles	75	nil	nil
Erysipelas	2	nil	nil
Tuberculosis	14	nil	1
(a) Respiratory	13		nil
(b) Non-respiratory	1		1

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case notified.

### 4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again somewhat in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was mild, and there were no deaths from either.

## 5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

### A.—Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (1) **General.**—There are nine nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

### B.—Midwives.

There are nine certified midwives practising in the district.

### C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

### D.—Hospitals available for the District.

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—One at Wincanton.
- (2) **Fever.**—The following cases were admitted from your District to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital during the year—

Disease	Number Admitted	Number Died
Scarlet Fever ..	6	nil
Pemphigns ..	1	nil
Whooping Cough	1	nil
	8	0
	—	—

- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is one Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.

(b) There is one Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases is in addition, there are three wards available for Maternity cases.

(c) There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.



## **E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.**

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

## **F.—Ambulance Facilities.**

- (1) **For Infectious Cases.**—The Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital Motor Ambulance is used for the collection and removal of infectious cases.
  - (2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—A motor ambulance, built and equipped by the Wincanton Rural District Council, is kept at The Council Offices, Wincanton, Tel. 2321.
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There have been a considerable number of changes in the Nursing, Hospital and other Health Services due to the passing of the National Health Service Act on July 5th, 1948, amongst them are the following :—

- A (1) Section 25 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority (The County Council) to provide Nurses for persons who require nursing in their own homes.
- B. Section 23 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority to make arrangements to employ a sufficient number of certified midwives available in the Area.
- C. Section 9 provides for the transfer of this Dispensary to the Ministry of Health and to be staffed by the Local Health Authority.
- D (1). Section 6 provides for the transfer of this Hospital to the Ministry of Health and to be staffed by the Local Health Authority.
- D (3). (a) Section 6 provides for the transfer of this Hospital to the Ministry of Health and to be staffed by the Regional Hospital Board.
- D (3). (b) Section 6 provides for the transfer of this Hospital to the Ministry of Health and to be staffed by the Regional Hospital Board. After July 5th to be used for Maternity Cases only.

D (3). (c) Part III, Section 19 et seq. and proposals of the Local Health Authority approved by the Ministry of Health provides for the premises, equipment and maintenance of the non-sick persons in this Institution to be the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the treatment and maintenance of the sick persons in this Institution to be the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

F. Section 27 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority to provide and administer Ambulance Services or alternatively to make arrangements with Voluntary Organisations for the provision by them of such Ambulances.

#### **G.—Government Evacuation Scheme. Institutions for Evacuated Children.**

The Nursery School at Yarlington House was permanently closed during 1948.

#### **H.—Scabies.**

No cases have been brought to my notice.

### **6.—LABORATORY WORK.**

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton, and is supplied, gratis, on demand to Practitioners practising in the District.

### **7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, two additional Sanitary Inspectors, one assistant Sanitary Inspector, two pupils, all whole-time Officers, and myself a part-time Officer.

There are also two Health Visitors in the District.

### **8.—WATER SUPPLIES.**

(i) The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality and except for shortages in a few districts have also been satisfactory in quantity.

The principal shortages reported occurred in Bruham, Charlton Horethorne, Charlton Musgrove, Galhampton, Queen Camel, Redlynch, Sutton Montis, Thorne and Wincanton.

(ii) Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table :—

Public Supply	No. Samples	Satisfactory B. Coli absent	Slight Contamination Non faecal B. Coli per m.l.		Unsatisfactory Faecal B. Coli per m.l.		
			Slight 1—20	Excessive 21—	1—5	6—10	10—
Bruham ..	6	1	—	—	2	1	2
Bruton ..	12	5	4	—	—	1	2
Castle Cary	12	11	1	—	—	—	—
C.Horethorne	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
C. Musgrove	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
Cucklington (Babwell)	5	1	—	—	—	1	2
Milborne Port	13	4	2	—	1	3	3
Penselwood	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
Pitcombe	4	3	1	—	—	—	—
Sparkford							
Queen Camel	11	3	3	2	1	—	2
Templecombe	12	7	3	—	—	—	2
Wincanton	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	106	61	20	2	4	6	13

There have been no chemical analyses of Public supplies.

(iii) **Plumbo Solvency.** The public water supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are those at South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove, and to a lesser degree, Penselwood.

At Charlton Musgrove, the water is passed over Magnesite.

The Penselwood water includes one hard water, which, when mixed with the remainder, reduces the acidity. A liming plant is available for use when necessary.

No treatment is undertaken at Brewham where it is believed no lead pipes are in use.

In all three districts, the use of leadpipes is prohibited.

**Chlorination.** Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), and of the Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

(iv) The action taken following unsatisfactory samples was as follows :

**Bruham.** The Hillcombe springs were again taken out of supply.

**Cucklington (Babwell).** The reservoir has been cleansed and an access door repaired.

**Milborne Port.** The clay bay which permitted back flow of water was removed.



(v.) **Population Supplied.** The following table gives the number of houses, and estimated population, supplied with water from public mains, public standpipes, and from private supplies in pipes set out parish by parish.

Parish	Pop. 1931 Census	Total No Houses	Est. Pop. 1948	Pub. Sup. piped to Houses Est. Pop. 1948		Pub. Sup. piped to Standpipe Houses. Est. Pop. 1948		Private Sup. piped to Houses. Est. Pop. 1948	
Alford .. ..	102	25	85	25	85	—	—	—	—
Ansford/Castle Cary ..	1969	693	2200	672	2133	—	—	16	52
Bratton .. ..	98	33	132	28	110	—	—	3	10
Bruham .. ..	378	126	380	114	340	4	10	4	14
Bruton .. ..	1553	489	1680	476	1630	—	—	5	18
Castle Cary ( <i>See Ansford</i> )									
C. Horethorne .. ..	463	147	490	87	275	16	50	36	112
C. Musgrove .. ..	377	113	370	101	350	—	—	9	30
Compton .. ..									
Paunce foot .. ..	208	63	190	—	—	—	—	56	180
Corton Denham .. ..	228	69	220	—	—	—	—	57	180
Cucklington .. ..	211	69	205	61	180	—	—	4	13
Henstridge .. ..	1040	320	1080	292	982	12	40	1	4
Holton .. ..	233	68	230	53	180	—	—	5	17
Horsington .. ..	611	181	610	138	460	—	—	35	122
Lovington .. ..	189	57	180	57	180	—	—	—	—
Maperton .. ..	125	37	110	24	76	—	—	3	10
Milborne Port .. ..	655	546	1872	524	1872	—	—	5	16
North Barrow .. ..	94	27	8	27	84	—	—	—	—
North Cadbury .. ..	690	206	680	104	340	—	—	86	284
North Cheriton .. ..	178	56	180	53	175	—	—	1	3
Penselwood .. ..	285	85	255	65	200	—	—	4	14
Pitcombe .. ..	457	111	454	91	360	—	—	16	64
Queen Camel .. ..	472	159	500	143	445	—	—	3	10
Shepton .. ..									
Montague .. ..	231	62	200	44	14	—	—	9	33
South Barrow .. ..	86	30	80	30	80	—	—	—	—
South Cadbury .. ..	294	88	270	3	10	—	—	73	240
Sparkford .. ..	380	119	380	111	354	—	—	8	26
Stoke Trister .. ..	291	99	300	92	275	—	—	3	10
Templecombe .. ..	871	297	1010	282	960	11	30	3	10
Wincanton .. ..	2047	641	2380	640	2377	—	—	—	—
Yarlington .. ..	149	47	150	38	120	—	—	—	—
	15965	5063	16957	4375	14747	43	130	445	1472

## Private Supplies.

Fourteen bacteriological examinations of private supplies have been made. Of these twelve, serving village hamlets or estates showed the following results :—

Excellent (B. Coli absent)	..	..	..	5
Fair (Non-Faecal B. Coli present)		..	..	2
Unsatisfactory: Faecal B. Coli	}	1—5	..	1
		6—10	..	2
per M.L.		10—	..	3
				<hr/>
Total			..	13

Of the three highly polluted samples two were derived from the supply serving Stowell, where the users were advised to boil the water, and one from the Rawlinson Supply at Charlton Horethorne, where the supply has been unsatisfactory for some time.

There is little that can be done as the Public Supply serving part of the village is inadequate for extension.

## General Observations.

The proportion of the population supplied from Public supplies is high. The demand for both Domestic and Agricultural use tends to increase, and this, together with the shortages arising, and with certain unsatisfactory private systems, indicates a need for a large increase of supply.

## Improvements of Supply.

A new 6 inch. Rising main has been laid from the Milborne Port pumping station to the High Level and Low Level Reservoirs.

A temporary supply to augment the Queen Camel system was obtained from certain of the Cherwell Springs, previously under requisition to supply the Sigwells Camp.

In order to augment the Bruham supply—water was obtained by agreement from the Redlynch Supply, but the presence of sand in this water was an unsatisfactory feature.

## Post War Proposals.

As I understand the Post War Proposals, in addition to extra water from Penselwood, 300,000 gallons per day will be obtained from Thornford, by arrangement with the Sherborne Rural District Council, with whom the matter is under discussion.

## 9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

One short extension has been laid to the rear of the Laundry, Wincanton. This is the commencement of the sewer proposed to be laid to serve Balsam Fields, and later, Penn View and Bayford Hill.

Substantial completion of the Wincanton Sewage Works was reported during December, although the Works were not operating at the end of the year.

In addition to Templecombe, in respect of which the Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme, the villages accepted by the County Council as coming within the first Priority Group are North Cheriton and Sutton Montis.

The estimated costs of the schemes are :—

Templecombe	..	..	..	£32,000
North Cheriton	..	..	..	£7,500
Sutton Montis	..	..	..	£5,500

### Camping Sites.

No Camping Sites in this District have been registered.

Generally the only cases of Camping which occurred were cases of two or three days' duration, except at Sparkford.

No special difficulties in connection with Camping are anticipated.

## 10.—HOUSING.

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to flats or dwellings
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	46	—	65	—	21
Private Enterprise	5	—	9	—	8
Totals ..	51	—	74	—	29

### Houses Required :—

(a) to replace those unfit .. .. .	673
(b) to abate overcrowding .. .. .	10
(c) where conditions are unsatisfactory, e.g. two families living in same house, but not included in (a) or (b) .. .. .	264
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the the end of the year .. .. .	533



The figures in (a) are based on the results of the Housing survey to date and in (b) are estimated.

Applications for Council Houses have only been received from comparatively few of the occupiers of the houses scheduled as unfit. Many of these occupiers are elderly people without young children, and under present conditions it seems desirable that they should be encouraged to remain in the houses, at least until the demand for houses for families with children has been met.

## 11.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH INQUIRIES.

An inquiry by the Ministry of Health, was held on April 27th, into an objection to the Bruton (Mill Dam) Compulsory Purchase Order. The Minister upheld the objection.

## 12.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply.

(a)	Total number of Registered Dairy Farms .. ..	591
(b)	Number of Retailers .. .. .	58
(c)	Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b) ..	51
(d)	Number of Licensed pasteurising plants .. ..	1
(e)	Number of Heat-Treatment Plants not included in (d) .. .. .	2
(f)	Number of Heat-Treatment Plants authorized by the Ministry of Food .. .. .	2

### (b) Meat Supervision.

## ICE CREAM.

No. of premises registered for :

(a)	Manufacture .. .. .	3
(b)	Sale .. .. .	13

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No. of Slaughter Houses :

(a)	Licensed .. .. .	2
(b)	Registered .. .. .	—
(c)	Application for licence Pending .. .. .	14
	No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption .. .. .	—

Names of any in use under Ministry of Food :—

South Western Dairies Co., Ltd.,  
Bacon Factory,  
Bruton.



## RIVER POLLUTION.

Although two complaints were made of pollution at Goathill, I could not find any justification for them.

There was serious pollution of the river at Wincanton and streams at Templecombe and North Cheriton, although the first mentioned is likely to be remedied early in 1949.

## KNACKERS YARDS.

Number Registered in District	..	..	..	..	3
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I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Council Offices,  
Wincanton,  
Somerset.  
July 5th, 1949.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.  
Balsam Gate,  
Wincanton,  
Somerset.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

The total number of inspections was 5,920 made up as follows:—

**Public-Health Acts.**

Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	518
Refuse and Salvage			..	..	..	..	..	321
Sewers and Sewage Works			..	..	..	..	..	666
Infectious Diseases		..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Camping Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
New Buildings and Byelaw Control (inc. Town Planning)								795

**Building Licensing** .. .. . 481

**Housing.**

Survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	315
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	258
Various	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	588
Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	524
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1020

**SEWERAGE.**

**ALFORD.**

Complaints have been made about the condition of the ditch in Alford Park, into which the sewer discharges and investigations are proceeding.

## BRUTON.

The Works continue to function satisfactorily although they require a general overhaul.

## CASTLE CARY.

The Works have functioned satisfactorily.

The infiltration mentioned in my last report continues, but it is hoped that the preliminary remedial work will be put in hand in the coming year.

The filter walls (erected in 1940) have developed serious defects, which are likely to necessitate their complete rebuilding in a few years.

**Gas Works Effluent.** There has been some progress towards the connection of this effluent to the Public Sewer, as the general technical details covering settlement and the sewer connection have been agreed informally.

## HENSTRIDGE.

The Works here have also functioned satisfactorily except for the difficulty in drying out the sludge.

The existing access to the Works is unusable by motor vehicles for most of the year and the Council agreed to acquire a right of access from Marsh Lane. The deeds were executed in December, and it is hoped during 1949 to make substantial progress in the construction of a new road.

## MILBORNE PORT.

**Infiltration into the Sewers.** It has not been possible to make much progress with the investigations of infiltration, except that records of the flow at the Works have been kept since March and a new Junction Manhole near the Town Hall has been constructed.

The Works have functioned well, although certain engine replacements are to be expected in the near future.

The filter has been thoroughly overhauled, and other general repairs have been executed.

The Council's Engineers have resumed their discussions with Mr. Blizzard (acting for the Sherborne Castle Estates) as to the necessity of carrying out further extensions of the Sewage Works.

## SPARKFORD AND QUEEN CAMEL.

The Works have functioned fairly satisfactorily, but there are signs at times which suggest to me that the milk waste tends to "dominate" the sewage, rendering treatment difficult.

## TEMPLECOMBE.

I have no further progress to report in regard to the scheme in respect of which the Consulting Engineer, Mr. A. J. Allen, was instructed in July, 1945.

The Council have decided to allow for the inclusion of Horsington, but not South Cheriton, in this Scheme.

## WINCANTON.

Considerable progress has been made with the new Sewage Works, and I have every hope that the contract will be completed early in the New Year. "Substantial completion" was certified on September 2nd, 1948.

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE.

### **Sewer Repairs.**

Sewer repairs have been undertaken at Castle Cary, Charlton Musgrove, Henstridge, North Cheriton, Sparkford, Stoke Trister, and Wincanton.

### **Repairs, etc.**

The present high cost of repair work and of Sewerage Maintenance is causing me some concern. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the number of sewage works which a rural district can maintain is limited, and that therefore where the village to be sewered is small, the works to begin with at least, may have to be designed to alleviate unsatisfactory conditions rather than to produce a perfect effluent. Old and somewhat unsatisfactory sewers may have to be retained for a time.

### **Future Sewerage Proposals.**

Consideration has been given to the possibility of providing sewerage facilities for small groups of houses, and the Committee accepted my recommendation that this principle should not be adopted at present.

I have also made enquiries regarding the cost of providing and maintaining Cesspool Emptiers. These enquiries seemed to indicate that the operation of two such vehicles would be likely to cost a sum in the region of £2,800 per annum.

I have had discussions with Sir Wm. Savage (Assistant County Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. Dewhurst, the County Sanitary Officer, which clarified the position as regards those schemes deemed to be included in the first Priority Group. No support was likely to be forthcoming for schemes providing sewerage facilities for small groups of houses, nor for operating Cesspool Emptiers.



## **Extentions of Sewers.**

Arising on an application for a sewer extension to serve a house without satisfactory drainage, the Council have given consideration to the general principles involved.

Although a hard and fast rule could not be applied it was decided that in each case regard must be had to the possibility of the extension serving other houses or future development, to the statutory distance mentioned in Sec. 90 (6) of the Public Health Act, 1936 (100 feet), and to the limitations of cost per house mentioned in the Ministry of Health Circular 87/47 (£50 to £120).

## **Sewer Connections.**

The Council have decided, under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to undertake the making of sewer connections, the cost being met by the applicant.

# **HOUSING.**

## **Council House Development.**

The Housing position remains difficult and while it is not easy to compare the number of houses allocated at Zonal Conferences with the number erected, it is certain at least for 1948 that the Council were not able to complete the full number of houses allocated.

The relaxation of licensing control does not seem to have had any direct bearing on the number of men available for house building.

At the beginning of the year 38 houses were in course of construction as compared with 49 at the end. The corresponding figures for the labour force are 65 and 88.

At the last Zonal Conference there was an alteration in the method of allocation ; now to be based on an index figure. This figure, sixty-three, represents the total number of houses, which, having regard to the labour position, can be allowed to be under construction at any one time.

With a half promise of an extra allocation if the number of houses under construction fell below the index figure, there was a direct invitation to Councils to proceed more quickly with their building.

Councils were urged to have schemes prepared two years in advance or more if possible.

## **Public Inquiries.**

An inquiry by the Ministry of Health was held on April 27th, following an objection to the Bruton (Mill Dam) Compulsory Purchase Order. The Minister has upheld the objection, and the Council are therefore faced with the prospect of a further search for sites.

## HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1948.

Parish	Council Houses						Private Enter- prise	
	Swed- ish	P.2. P.1. Parlour	N.P.1 P.13	Flat	Airey	Total		
Ansford ..			4			4		
Bruton ..		2		8		10		
C. Cary ..				4	7	11		
Cucklington ..							1	
Henstridge							1	
M. Port ..					4	4	1	
Queen Camel							2	
Templecombe					4	4		
Wincanton ..			3	10		13		
	—	2	3	14	12	15	46	5

### Conversions.

The conversion of Woodhayes into four flats has been completed.

The West Hill Camp at Wincanton has been taken over and the Council's Architect has completed the conversion of the huts into eighteen units of housing accommodation.

### Requisitioning.

The number of houses under requisition for housing purposes at the end of the year was forty-eight. Many of these remain in poor condition.

### Licences.

The number of unfit houses under licence for temporary occupation at the end of the year was forty.

### Housing Survey.

Progress in the survey has been steady, and as indicated by the results in the following table, the inspections continue to cover the worst of the houses.

	Total on Jan. 1	Horsington	Lovington	Cucklington	Stoke Trister	Castle Cary	Corton Denham	Penselwood	Total
£16 and under ..	1928	139	47	45	79	316	56	77	2687
Dealt with in earlier Programmes ..	84	17	—	—	—	—	1	2	104
No. to be inspected	1844	122	47	45	79	316	55	75	2583
No. fully inspected	732	66	18	26	34	133	35	33	1077
Adequate records ..	92	5	1	3	—	29	1	6	137
Fit in all respects ..	25	1	1	1	—	6	2	2	38
Sec. 9—Minor defects	108	5	7	5	6	12	7	5	155
Sec. 9—Serious defects	34	8	1	1	8	12	2	7	73
Sec. 9—Housing (R.W.) Acts	24	10	—	—	3	6	10	2	55
Low Standard De- ferment .. ..	135	3	2	4	5	9	1	3	162
Sec. 11/12—Housing (R.W.) Acts ..	111	20	5	2	1	30	6	7	182
Sec. 11/12—Irrepairable	160	14	3	9	9	49	8	9	261
Sec. 25—Clearance	227	10	—	7	2	38	—	4	288
Replacement Need	384	37	2	16	10	90	8	10	557
Suitable for acquisition	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25

As the shortages of building labour would limit the amount of reconstruction possible in the immediate future, and the return of two juniors from the Forces would soon enable ordinary routine inspection to continue, it was decided to discontinue the employment of special staff on this survey in the near future.

## Housing Acts.

### Statutory Action

One undertaking not to use has been cancelled.

Nine dwelling houses, of which one was the subject of a demolition order, and seven were the subject of undertakings not to use, have been demolished.

### Informal Action.

Repairs have been carried out at seventeen houses of which seven have been rendered fit.



### **Overcrowding.**

Of the fifteen cases of overcrowding which were discovered, six cases have been abated.

### **Verminous Premises.**

No cases have been found.

### **River Pollution.**

**Sparkford.** One minor case of stream pollution has occurred as the result of a faulty drain connection at the Sprakford Milk Factory. The necessary alterations were completed without delay.

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

One licence has been issued covering the use of a caravan on a site at Milborne Port.

The use, without consent, of a site at Sparkford, has continued throughout the year.

## **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.**

Consideration has been given to the value of terminal disinfection as a matter of routine, and to disinfect only in cases where this is necessary.

In the few cases where bedding, etc., requires disinfection, this will be carried out at the Shepton Mallett Isolation Hospital.

## **HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE.**

It has not been found possible to start the complete Refuse Scheme as there was delay in the delivery of the vehicles, the first of which did not arrive until mid-December.

Preparations are in hand for bringing the scheme in partial operation during January, 1949, and in full operation in April.

During the year many complaints have been received about the unsightly refuse dumps, large and small, which have appeared in the neighbourhood of most villages where house refuse collections have not been in operation. The Council have decided, in co-operation with the Owners, to clear up these dumps by removal or covering as is found most convenient.

Consideration was also given to the many disused ponds, etc., which could be filled up. It was decided in suitable cases to fill up these holes and depressions with house refuse provided that the co-operation of the Owners can be secured in covering the site.

The quantity and value of salvage recovered during the past three years are given in the following table :—



## SALVAGE TABLE.

Tons						
	1948	1947	1946	1948	1947	1946
Paper .. ..	91.78	85.98	78.70	612.15	571.0	523.4
Ferrous Metals ..	4.85	6.32	31.56	12.5	14.75	44.05
Non-Ferrous Metals			0.55			12.65
Textiles (including String) .. ..	3.85	2.09	6.85	69.25	36.5	54.45
Bottles .. ..			0.06			1.0
Bones .. ..	3.79	3.79	6.33	22.0	21.75	34.45
Tinfoil .. ..	0.11			1.25		
Total ..	104.38	98.18	124.05	717.25	644.00	670. 0

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public Conveniences are provided in Bruton, Castle Cary and Wincanton.

Following complaints by the Public, Milborne Port Parochial Committee have recently pressed for the provision of Public Conveniences at Milborne Port. The Ministry of Health have approved the project in principle and a site has been provisionally selected.

## MILK SUPPLIES.

Improvements have been effected at 50 farm premises, most of them being brought up to the standard of the Milk and Dairies Order.

The following are the results of the samples taken :—

### Pasteurised Milk :—

No. of samples taken	..	..	..	..	14
Satisfactory .. ..	..	..	..	..	12
Unsatisfactory ..	..	..	..	..	2

### T.B. :—

No. of samples taken	..	..	..	..	24
Negative .. ..	..	..	..	..	22
Positive .. ..	..	..	..	..	1
Inconclusive ..	..	..	..	..	1

## FOOD INSPECTION.

During the illness of the Chief Sanitary Inspector of Shepton Mallet Rural District Council, assistance was rendered in routine meat inspection at the Pylle Slaughter House.

The results of the inspection of pigs at the South Western Dairies Bacon Factory at Bruton are :—

No. of carcasses examined	..	..	..	..	5160
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### Condemnations :—

#### Tuberculosis :—

Carcases	..	..	31		
Heads	..	..	332	}	7.03%
Plucks	..	..	109		
Livers	..	..	3		
Fore Quarters	..		4 (242 lbs)		

#### Other Diseases :—

Carcases	..	..	4
Plucks	..	..	42
Liver and Hearts	..		102
Liver	..	..	91
Lungs	..	..	285
Kidneys..	..	..	5
Heads	..	..	3
Hearts	..	..	2
Hind Quarters		..	2 (99 lbs)
Fore Quarters	..		2 (172 lbs)

## RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continue to make no charge for rodent destruction.

The results of the years' working are given in the following table :—

	Infes- tations	Bait	Poison	Est. Kill	Infestations Cleared	Referred to C.A.E.C.
Reservoir	3	Sausage	Zinc	215	—	
Major	44	Rusk or	Phosphide	2949	25	5
Minor	74	Bread	and Arsenic	1058	60	

The Sewers have been treated in accordance with the Ministry recommendations.

There is no effective co-operation with the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

## BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which came into operation on July 1st, 1948, has altered planning procedure completely.

Since July 1st, the County Council have become the authority responsible for planning. The Act gives the County Council wide powers of delegation, but the County Council scheme, according to the draft instrument of delegation, limits delegation to the smallest possible degree.

The District Council cannot approve or reject any “ delegated ” plan unless the Area Planning Officer (appointed and instructed by the County Council) agrees entirely with their decision. There is thus no delegation in the proper sense of the term.

The Council receive and check applications, pass them on to the County Council, “ police ” the operations and notify the County Council of infringements.

Unless developers send in the notices required under the Byelaws—for the Town Planning Act contains no similar powers—it will not be possible to operate the Act effectively, particularly as a large number of operations are not completed exactly in accordance with the plans.

A number of infringements of earlier planning control were reported to the County Council.

**Byelaws :—**

Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	219
Approved	..	..	..	..	..	177	
Rejected	..	..	..	..	..	19	
Withdrawn	..	..	..	..	..	10	
No action required		..	..	..	..	2	
						—	208
In abeyance at the end of the year	..	..	..				11
							—

**Town Planning :—**

**January 1st to June 30th.**

Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Approved	..	..	..	..	..	79	
Rejected	..	..	..	..	..	9	
Withdrawn	..	..	..	..	..	4	
						—	92
							—

**July 1st to December 31st.**

Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Divided into the following Categories :—							
A. Delegated to R.D.C.	..	..	..	..	..	36	
B. Area Committee	..	..	..	..	..	51	
C. County Council	..	..	..	..	..	10	
							97
							—
No decision	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—

Of the 36 plans in Category A.:—

Approved	..	..	..	..	26
Withdrawn	..	..	..	..	2
In abeyance	..	..	..	..	8

Of the 61 plans in Categories B. and C.:—

Approved	..	..	..	..	22
Rejected	..	..	..	..	4
Withdrawn	..	..	..	..	3
No decision	..	..	..	..	1
In abeyance	..	..	..	..	31

During the six months in twelve cases a decision was not made within the Statutory period of two months.

### BUILDING LICENSING.

During the year licensing control was relaxed so as to free all work costing not more than £100 and work on farm buildings (other than dwelling houses) factories, etc., costing not more than £1,000.

The Council's reduced ceiling of £3,432 for six months has been found adequate.

The action taken is indicated in the following table :—

#### Licensing, 1948.

Brought forward from 1947	..	..	..	97	
Received 1/1/48 to 31/12/48	..	..	..	539	636
No. of Licences issued :—					
New Houses	..	..	..	12	
Additional Units	..	..	..	6	
Extra Housing	..	..	..	1	
Repairs—Housing	..	..	..	237	
Repairs—Other	..	..	..	109	
War Damage—Housing	..	..	..	2	
War Damage—Other	..	..	..	1	
Maintenance	..	..	..	2	
Special authorisation by Ministry	..	..	..	7	
Licences dealt with other than by issue :—					
Sent to Ministry of Works (over £100)	..	..	..	79	
Sent to Soms. County Council (Smallholdings)	..	..	..	1	
Refused	..	..	..	36	
Withdrawn	..	..	..	130	
Carried forward to January, 1949	..	..	..	13	636
				—	—
Licences lapsed after issue	..	..	..	4	
Licences lapsed after issue and re-issued	..	..	..	2	

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. G. GRAY.









